This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

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AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
USMISSION USNATO USHAYOU USHAYOU USIA WASHDC 1621
USEC BRUSSELS
COMSIXTHFLIT/N2//
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON/N24//
USEUCOM VAIHINGEN GM//ECJ3/ECJ5//
WHITE HOUSE WASHDC 0514

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 08 ZAGREB 00954

SIPDIS

VIENNA ALSO FOR USDEL CSBM; ISLAMABAD FOR POL/JPOGUE

HELSINKI FOR USDEL CSCE

STATE PASS TO AID FOR EUR/RME AND FHA/OFDA/DRD

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR

TAGS: PGOV PREL PREF PHUM MOPS HR PREL PREF P

11. CONFIDENTIAL -- ENTIRE TEXT.

SUMMARY

12. A CONSULATE VISIT TO TWO DISTRICTS OF THE MIXED CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 ZAGREB 00954 01 OF 08 111236Z
CROAT/SERB GORSKI KOTAR REGION PROVIDED BOTH A
HOPEFUL AND NEGATIVE PICTURE OF FUTURE RELATIONS
BETWEEN SERBS AND CROATS IN CROATIA. DIFFERING
WARTIME EXPERIENCES IN VRBOYSKO AND OGULIN, ONLY 30
KM APART, HAVE COLORED SERB/CROAT RELATIONSHIPS IN
THE TWO DISTRICTS FOR YEARS TO COME. IN VRBOYSKO,
WHILE TENSIONS WERE HIGH, ACTUAL FIGHTING NEVER TOOK
PLACE, AND WITH THE OVERALL CONFLICT ENDING IN
CROATIA, INTERETHNIC RELATIONS SEEM TO BE TAKING A
TURN FOR THE BETTER. IN OGULIN, WHERE SERBS FLED AND
WHERE THE FRONT LINE IS ONLY 15 KM AWAY, SITTING DOWN
AT THE SAME TABLE TOGETHER IS STILL A MAJOR TASK FOR
THE AREA'S CROATS AND SERBS. THE VILLAGE OF JASEMAK,
A PREDOMINANTLY SERB VILLAGE IN THE OGULIN DISTRICT,
IS THE SITE OF A CONTROVERSIAL DISPLACED PERSON
CENTER. BOTH THE C AND THE UNHCR ARE ACTIVELY
ENGAGED THERE TO SEE THAT THE SENSTITUTIES OF ALL
SIDES ARE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT. THE EC AND UNHCR WILL
NOT BE HERE FOREVER, HOWEVER, AND THE PROCESS OF
RECONCILIATION WILL BE DIFFICULT AT BEST. IN SOME
SITUATIONS, UNFORTUNATELY, RECONCILIATION SEEMS A
DISTANT DREAM IF NOT AN IMPOSSIBILITY. END SUMMARY.

13. IN RESPONSE TO ALLEGATIONS REGARDING THE TREATMENT OF SERBS IN THE GORSKI KOTAR REGION OF CROATIA, WE VISITED TWO DISTRICTS (VRBOVSKO AND OGULIN) IN THE AREA ON JUNE 3. DISCUSSIONS WITH SERBS AND CROATS REVEALED A REMARKABLE DIFFERENCE IN INTER-ETHNIC RELATIONSHIPS IN THE NEIGHBORING DISTRICTS. VRBOVSKO AND OGULIN ARE LOCATED IN THE HEART OF THE MOUNTAINOUS GORSKI KOTAR REGION, COMPLIDENTIAL CONFIDENTIAL

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ZAGREB 00954 01 OF 08 111236Z PAGE 04 APPROXIMATELY 50 - 60 kM SOUTHWEST OF KARLOVAC. IN VRBOVSKO, WE MET TOGETHER WITH DISTRICT OFFICIALS AS WELL AS THE POLICE (ALL CROATS) AND WITH SERBS

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AMAD-01 INFO LOG-00 CIAE-00 C-01 DODE-00 CISA-02 EB-01 H-01 INRE NEA-01 NSAE SDEL-01 SIL-TRSE-00 T-01 EUR-01 L-03 RP-10 SS-01 HA-09 ADS-00 SCT-03 INRE-00 NSAE-00 SIL-01 INR-01 OIC-02 SNP-01 LAB-04 P-01 SR-01 SP-01 STR-20 /089W

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P 111005Z JUN 92 FM AMCONSUL ZAGREB TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1123 TO SECSTATE WASHDE PRIORITY 1123
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE PRIORITY
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY
USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST AMEMBASSY HELSTNKI AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD AMEMBASSY KIEV
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LOXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMCONSUL MILLAN
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMCONSUL MUNICH AMCONSUL MUNICH

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PAGE 02 Z AMEMBASSY PARIS ZAGREB 00954 02 OF 08 111236Z AMEMBASSY PARTS
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 08 ZAGREB 00954

SIPDIS

VIENNA ALSO FOR USDEL CSBM; ISLAMABAD FOR POL/JPOGUE

HELSINKI FOR USDEL CSCE

STATE PASS TO AID FOR EUR/RME AND FHA/OFDA/DRD

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PGOV PREL PREF PHUM MOPS HR PREF PHUM MOPS HR PREL PREF PHUM MOPS HR PREL PREF PHUM MOPS HR PREF PHUM MOPS HR PREL PREF PHUM MOPS HR PREF PHUM MOPS HR PREF PHUM MOPS HR PRET PHUM MOPS HR PREF PHUM MOPS HR PREF PHUM MOPS HR

REPRESENTING THE PREDOMINANTLY SERB VILLAGES OF REPRESENTING THE PREDOMINANTLY SERB VILLAGES OF GOMINJE AND SRPSKE MORAVICE. IN OGULIN, 14 REPRESENTATIVES OF SERBS AND CROATS IN THE DISTRICT, INCLUDING TWO SERB MEMBERS OF THE CROATIAN ASSEMBLY, OGULIN CITY FATHERS, SERBS FROM THE VILLAGE OF JASENAK AND CROATS FROM THE VILLAGE OF SABORSKO. CONFIDENTIAL

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VRBOVSKO: A MODUS VIVENDI

- 14. SITTING DOWN WITH SERB AND CROAT REPRESENTATIVES IN VRBOVSKO PROVIDED SOME HOPE THAT ALL WAS NOT LOST. AS WE DISCUSSED ISSUE AFTER THORNY ISSUE THAT HAVE PLAGUED SERB/CROAT RELATIONS IN THE FORMER YUGOSLAVIA, IT APPEARED TO US THAT THE TWO SERBS AND THREE CROATS MEETING WITH US HAD BEEN OVER THIS GROUND BEFORE. THE WARTIME EXPERIENCE IN THE VRBOVSKO AREA WAS, WHILE NOT WITHOUT TENSION, LARGELY DEVOID OF ANY CONFLICT. THERE WAS NEVER A JNA BASE IN THE DISTRICT, OFFEN THE FOCUS OF INITIAL FIGHTING IN OTHER PARTS OF CROATIA, SERB VILLAGERS NEVER SET UP BARRICADES, AND THE FRONT LINE WAS FAR ENOUGH AWAY TO KEEP THE DISTRICT FROM RECEIVING ANY SEELLING. TO KEEP THE DISTRICT FROM RECEIVING ANY SHELLING.
 THIS COMBINATION OF FACTORS CONSPIRED TO ALLOW
 REASONABLE SERBS AND CROATS TO PREVAIL IN VRBOVSKO.
- 15. TWO OTHER FACTORS WORKED TO HOLD THE AREA
 TOGETHER. ONE WAS POLITICAL AFFILIATION. OF THE
 FOUR LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS WE MET WITH (2 SERBS
 AND 2 CROATS), TWO (ONE EACH) WERE MEMBERS OF THE
 PARTY FOR DEMOCRATIC CHANGES (SDP FORMER
 COMMUNISTS), ONE SERB JOINED THE SERBIAN DEMOCRATIC
 PARTY (SDS) FOLLOWING THE APRIL 1990 ELECTIONS, AND
 THE OTHER CROAT WAS NOT AFFILIATED WITH ANY PARTY.
 PRESIDENT TUDJMAN'S RULING CROATIAN DEMOCRATIC UNION
 (HDZ) WAS NOT REFRESENTED IN THIS GROUP. IN
 ADDITION, THOUGH IT IS NOT CLEAR HOW THIS WAS
 CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 04 ZAGREB 00954 02 OF 08 111236Z ACCOMPLISHED, LOCAL POLITICAL MOVEMENTS HAD CEASED PARTY ACTIVITIES DURING THE WAR IN ORDER TO KEEP THE PEACE AROUND VRBOVSKO.

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INFO LOG-00 CIAE-00 C-01 DODE-00 CISA-02 EB-01 AMAD-01 C-01 DODE-00 CISA:
INRE-00 INR-01 IO-1:
NSAE-00 OIC-02 PM-0
SIL-01 SNP-01 SP-0
T-01 /089W
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FM AMCONSUL ZAGREB

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1124
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE PRIORITY
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY
USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BONN
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AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
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AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY MORID
AMCONSUL MILAN
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMCONSUL MUNICH

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AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
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USMISSION USNATO
USIA WASHDC 1623
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CINCUSNAYEUR LONDON//N24//

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON//N24// USEUCOM VAIHINGEN GM//ECJ3/ECJ5// WHITE HOUSE WASHDC 0516

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 03 OF 08 ZAGREB 00954

SIPDIS

VIENNA ALSO FOR USDEL CSBM; ISLAMABAD FOR POL/JPOGUE

HELSINKI FOR USDEL CSCE

STATE PASS TO AID FOR EUR/RME AND FHA/OFDA/DRD

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PGOV PREL PREF PHUM MOPS HR PREL PREF P

16. THE SECOND REASON IS THAT SERBS AND CROATS DID NOT FLEE THE VRBOVSKO DISTRICT AS THEY DID IN OTHERS. BOTH GROUPS STUCK IT OUT THROUGH THE DIFFICULTIES AND NOW BOTH SIDES ASSERT THAT A CERTAIN NORMALIZATION IS RETURNING TO THE SERB-CROAT CONFIDENTIAL

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RELATIONSHIP THERE. IN THE DISTRICT AS A WHOLE, THE
POPULATION BREAKDOWN IS ABOUT 65 PERCENT CROAT, 35
PERCENT SERB. NATURALLY, SOME VILLAGES ARE 100
PERCENT ONE WAY OR THE OTHER AS IS THE CASE FOR
GOMIRJE AND SRPSKE MORAVICE (BOTH NEARLY 100 PERCENT
SEPBA)

VRBOVSKO: NOT WITHOUT ITS PROBLEMS

- 17. BOTH SIDES ADMITTED TO SERIOUS STRAINS IN THE RELATIONSHIP THAT THEY BLAMED ON SMALL GROUPS OF CROATIAN AND SERBIAN "EXTREMISTS". "EVERYONE IS ARMED," SAID LEADERS OF BOTH COMMUNITIES, LEADING TO THE PROMISE OF MUTUALLY ASSURED DESTRUCTION IN CASE OF ANY BREAKDOWN IN THE CURRENT PEACE. SOME OF THE CAUSES OF INSTABLILTY IN THE DISTRICT OVER THE LAST 10 MONTHS INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:
- IN VRBOVSKO, PRIOR TO THE WAR, THERE WERE 18 POLICEMEN, HALF OF WHOM WERE SERBS. SINCE THE WAR, THE TOTAL NUMBER HAS INCREASED TO 62, TEN PERCENT OF WHOM ARE SERBS. WHILE SERBS HAVE NOT BEEN FIRED FROM THE POLICE FORCE, THEY HAVE NOT BEEN HIRED EITHER, CONTRARY TO A NATIONAL REGULATION WHICH REQUIRES DISTRICTS TO HIRE BASED ON THE PROPORTION OF THE POPULATION WHICH IDENTIFIES ITSELF WITH DIFFERENT ETHNIC GROUPS.
- -- SERB LEADERS IN VRBOVSKO CONFIRMED THAT SERBS EMPLOYED BY THE CROATIAN RAILROAD FROM THAT AREA HAD CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 04 ZAGREB 00954 03 OF 08 111237Z LOST JOBS RECENTLY SIMPLY BECAUSE OF THEIR NATIONALITY. THE CROATIAN OFFICIALS FROM VRBOVSKO DID NOT ARGUE WITH THIS ASSESSMENT. LOCAL SERBS

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ACTION AID-01

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INR-01 OIC-02 SNP-01 NEA-01 NSAE-00 SDEL-01 SIL-01 TRSE-00 T-01 ADS-00 SCT-03 NSAE-00 L-03 RP-10 PM-01 P-01 SP-01 SR-01 SS-01 STR-20 /089W ---3D7A49 111246Z /38 P 111005Z JUN 92
FM AMCONSUL ZAGREB
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1125
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE PRIORITY
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY
USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
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AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMCONSUL MILIAN
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMCONSUL MUNICH P 111005Z JUN 92

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AMEMBASSY VIENNA
USMISSION USNATO
USIA WASHDC 1624
USCC RBUSSFLS USIA WASHDC 1024
USEC BRUSSELS
COMSIXTHFLT//N2//
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON//N24//
USEUCOM VAITHINGEN GM//ECJ3/ECJ5//
WHITE HOUSE WASHDC 0517

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 04 OF 08 ZAGREB 00954

SIPDIS

AMCONSUL MUNICH

VIENNA ALSO FOR USDEL CSBM; ISLAMABAD FOR POL/JPOGUE

HELSINKI FOR USDEL CSCE

STATE PASS TO AID FOR EUR/RME AND FHA/OFDA/DRD

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BLAMED RAILROAD AUTHORITIES IN RIJEKA AND ZAGREB FOR BLAMED KAILKOAD AUTHORITIES IN KIJEKA AND ZAGKEB FUNK THE FIRINGS. WHILE THE SERBS WE SPOKE WITH DID NOT BELIEVE THAT THIS WAS OFFICIAL CROATIAN GOVERNMENT POLICY, THEY FELT THAT ON SUCH ISSUES, STATED POLICY AND ACTUAL PRACTICE WERE QUITE DIFFERENT.

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-- SERBS IN THE AREA WERE ARMED BEFORE THE WAR.
CROATS ONLY GOT WEAPONS AFTER THE UNCONTROLLED
DISBURSAL OF ARMS FROM THE FORMER JNA BASE IN OGULIN.

-- PRE-WAR AND INITIAL ADDITIONAL POLICE HIRES WERE NOT WELL-QUALIFIED OR TRAINED FOR POLICE WORK. CONSEQUENTLY, TRUST IN THE POLICE, PARTICULARLY AMONG SERBS EBBED TO A VERY LOW LEVEL.

-- FOUR HUNDRED MEMBERS OF THE CROATIAN ARMY ARE BASED IN VRBOVSKO. AT THE OUTSET OF THE WAR, THE ARMY WAS NOT PARTICULARLY DISCIPLINED AND INCIDENTS INVOLVING DRUNKEN, ARMED CROATIAN SOLDIERS PROVOKING PEOPLE IN SERB VILLAGES WERE FREQUENT.

SERBS AND CROATS IN VRBOVSKO BLAMED THE MEDIA FOR INCITING HATRED.

TURNING THINGS AROUND

18. HAVING MADE IT THROUGH THE BULK OF THE WAR WITHOUT CONFLICT, BOTH SIDES SAID THAT THEY WERE COMMITTED TO IMPROVING THE SITUATION. SERB LEADERS SAID THAT THERE HAVE BEEN NO PROVOCATIVE INCIDENTS OVER THE LAST MONTH AND A HALF. THE ATMOSPHERE IS MORE AND MORE POSITIVE. THE POLICE CHIEF SAID THAT HIS ORGANIZATION WAS STRIVING TO INCREASE ITS PROFESSIONALISM AND THAT THE POLICE HAD "SOLVED" MOST CASES OF PROVOCATION. ALL FIVE LEADERS FROM VRBOVSKO DISTRICT COMPLAINED ABOUT "EXTREMISTS" (SERBS AND CONFIDENTIAL

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CROATS) WHO ESSENTIALLY STIRRED UP TROUBLE, WERE NOT
RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CONSEQUENCES OF THEIR ACTIONS,
AND DID NOT PARTICIPATE IN CONSTRUCTIVE SOLUTIONS.

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FM AMCONSUL ZAGREB
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1126
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE PRIORITY
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY
USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY
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AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BUUSELS
AMEMBASSY BUUSELS
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY ISLAMBAD
AMEMBASSY KIEV
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LONDON

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 05 OF 08 ZAGREB 00954

VIENNA ALSO FOR USDEL CSBM: ISLAMABAD FOR POL/JPOGUE

HELSINKI FOR USDEL CSCE

AMEMBASSY MADRID AMCONSUL MILAN AMEMBASSY MOSCOW AMCONSUL MUNICH

STATE PASS TO AID FOR EUR/RME AND FHA/OFDA/DRD

OF TWO DISTRICTS

OGULIN: STILL IN A STATE OF WAR

19. WHATEVER HOPE WE BROUGHT WITH US FROM VRBOVSKO WAS DASHED UPON ENTRY INTO OGULIN (LIKE VRBOVSKO CONFIDENTIAL

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DAGE 03 ZAGREB 00954 05 OF 08 111239Z
DISTRICT ABOUT 65 PERCENT CROAT AND 35 PERCENT SERB),
A CITY UNCOMFORTABLY CLOSE TO THE FRONT LINES THAT
HAS HAD AN ENTIRELY DIFFERENT WAR EXPERIENCE. IN A
SPACE OF LESS THAN 30 KILOMETERS, WE HAD GONE FROM A
FOTENTIAL MODEL OF FOST-WAR SERB/CROAT RELATIONS TO
AN AREA THAT EXHIBITS ALL THE REASONS WHY SERBS AND
CROATS IN THESE REGIONS MAY NEVER AGAIN TURN THEIR
BACKS ON ONE ANOTHER. THE MEETING, A TIGHTLY WOUND
AFFAIR, INCLUDED DISPLACED PERSONS FROM A DESTROYED,
KRAJINA-CONTROLLED, ONCE PREDOMINANTLY CROAT TOWN,
OGULIN DISTRICT OFFICIALS, AND "LOVAL" SERB
CITIZENS. THE TENSION BETWEEN SERBS AND CROATS IN
THIS MEETING (14 PARTICIPANTS) IN THE OGULIN DISTRICT
HALL WAS PALPABLE. HALL WAS PALPABLE.

110. A LOT OF THE TENSION COMES FROM OGULIN'S
WAR-TIME EXPERIENCE. A JNA BARRACKS WAS LOCATED IN
THE CENTER OF THE CITY OF OGULIN, NEXT DOOR TO THE
DISTRICT HALL. CONSIDERABLE FIGHTING TOOK PLACE IN
THE CITY BEFORE THE JNA BABNDONED THE SITE. IN
ADDITION, THE CITY IS LOCATED ONLY 15 KM FROM THE
FRONT LINE AND SOME OF THE OGULIN DISTRICT REMAINS
UNDER THE CONTROL OF KRAJINA FORCES (BUT OUTSIDE THE
UNPAS, AS LOCAL OFFICIALS ARE QUICK TO POINT OUT).
ADDITIONALLY, THOUGH THERE ARE NO CONCRETE FIGURES,
MANY SERBS LEFT OGULIN BEFORE AND DURING THE WAR,
LEAVING A BAD TASTE AMONG MANY CROATS WHO BELIEVE
THAT THEY ALL LEFT TO FIGHT FOR THE "CHETNIKS"
AGAINST THEIR OLD NEIGHBORS. SABORSKO (THE CROATIAN
TOWN REFERRED TO IN PARA 9) RESIDENTS, EMBITTERED BY
THE DESTRUCTION OF THEIR VILLAGE, IN WHICH THEY CLAIM
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PAGE 04 ZAGREB 00954 05 OF 08 111239Z 55 OF THE 1,600 PRE-WAR POPULATION WERE KILLED, ARGUED THAT JUSTICE MUST BE DONE TO THOSE SERBS RESPONSIBLE. AND THEY SAY THEY PERSONALLY KNOW THE

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 PAGE 01
 ACTION AID-01
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OIC-02
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PM-01
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SS-01
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STR-20
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TRSE-00 T-01
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1127
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE PRIORITY
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY
USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY ANKARA
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MAMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
MAMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
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AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
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AMEMBASSY KIEV
AMEMBASSY KIEV
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LOURDON
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMCONSUIL MILAN
 AMCONSUL MILAN
 AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMCONSUL MUNICH
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USEC BRUSSELS
COMSIXTHFLT/N2//
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON//N24// USEUCOM VAIHINGEN GM//ECJ3/ECJ5//WHITE HOUSE WASHDC 0519

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 06 OF 08 ZAGREB 00954

SIPDIS

VIENNA ALSO FOR USDEL CSBM; ISLAMABAD FOR POL/JPOGUE

HELSTNKT FOR USDEL CSCE

STATE PASS TO AID FOR EUR/RME AND FHA/OFDA/DRD

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INDIVIDUALS RESPONSIBLE. STILL, ONE FORMER SABORSKO RESIDENT SAID HE HAD NOTHING AGAINST THE SERBS AS A PEOPLE, HE JUST WANTED THOSE RESPONSIBLE TO BE PUNISHED

111. SUCH A POSITIVE ATTITUDE OFTEN DOES NOT MANIFEST CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 ZAGREB 00954 06 OF 08 111240Z ITSELF IN PRACTICE. SOME EXAMPLES:

-- BEFORE THE WAR, IN OGULIN, ACCORDING TO THE
DISTRICT PRESIDENT (A MEMBER OF THE RULING CROATIAN
DEMOCRATIC UNION, CDU), 75 PERCENT OF THE POLICE
FORCE WAS MADE UP OF SERBS. NOW THAT FIGURE HAS BEEN
REVERSED IN FAVOR OF CROATS. WERE SERBS FIRED? NO,
SAY CROATS. SERBS IN THE POLICE LEFT OGULIN; THE
TOTAL NUMBER OF POLICE WAS INCREASED; ALL FIVE POLICE
INSPECTORS ARE SERBS WHO HAVE BEEN KEPT ON IN ORDER
TO "USE" THEIR KNOWLEDGE.
(COMMENT: WE ARE NOT IMPRESSED BY CLAIMS THAT NOONE
WAS FIRED IN OGULIN BASED ON NATIONALITY. THE
REPORTS FROM VRBOVSKO AND ELSEWHERE SAY OTHERWISE.
END COMMENT.)

END COMMENT.)

- -- ACCORDING TO A SERB MEMBER OF THE CROATIAN ASSEMBLY, EMPTY HOUSES, KNOWN TO HAVE BEEN OCCUPIED BY SERBS HAVE BEEN THE TARGETS OF BOMB ATTACKS. NOONE PRESENT DENIED THE CLAIM. HOWEVER, SYMBOLIC OF THE DIPLOMATIC LANGUAGE THAT SERBS IN THE ROOM FELT COMPELLED TO USE, THE SERB ASSEMBLYMAN SAID THAT THESE WERE "CONSEQUENCES OF A PROCESS I UNDERSTAND." HE WAS REFERRING, AS DID OTHER SERBS, TO THE EGREGIOUS ACTS OF FELLOW SERBS AROUND OGULIN, THE KRAJINA AND IN THE REST OF CROATIA.
- THE SAME ASSEMBLY MEMBER NOTED THE KILLING OF 10 PEOPLE (PRESUMABLY SERBS) IN THE OGULIN PRISON.
 (COMMENT: IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT THIS ACT IS CURRENTLY BEING PROSECUTED BY CROATIAN AUTHORITIES.

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END COMMENT.)

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AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
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 AMCONSUL MILAN
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AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY VIENNA USMISSION USNATO USIA WASHDC 1627 USEC BRUSSELS COMSIXTHFLT//N2// CONGLATHFIT//NZ// CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON//N24// USEUCOM VAIHINGEN GM//ECJ3/ECJ5// WHITE HOUSE WASHDC 0520

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 07 OF 08 ZAGREB 00954

VIENNA ALSO FOR USDEL CSBM; ISLAMABAD FOR POL/JPOGUE

HELSINKI FOR USDEL CSCE

STATE PASS TO AID FOR EUR/RME AND FHA/OFDA/DRD

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
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112. JASENAK IS A PREDOMINANTLY SERB VILLAGE IN THE OGULIN DISTRICT WHICH HAS BEEN THE SUBJECT OF SOME CONTROVERSY WITH ALLEGATIONS BY SERBS REGARDING THE TEMPORARY SETTLEMENT OF NON-SERB DISPLACED THERE. CONFIDENTIAL

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ACCORDING TO THE OGULIN DISTRICT CHIEF, THERE ARE
CURRENTLY 200 DISPLACED PEOPLE HOUSED NEAR JASENAK (A
VILLAGE OF SEVERAL HUNDRED PEOPLE) IN AN UNUSED
RESORT THAT HAS 1600 AVAILABLE BEDS. THE SERB MEMBER
OF THE CROATIAN ASSEMBLY TOLD US THAT THERE HAD BEEN
LENGTHY PREPARATIONS BEFORE THE DISPLACED PERSONS HAD
BEEN BROUGHT TO JASENAK. DISCUSSIONS HAD BEEN HELD
WITH THE DISPLACED AND THE VILLAGERS SEPARATELY IN
ORDER TO PREPARE THE GROUNDWORK FOR THE ARRIVAL OF THE
DISPLACED. IN ADDITION, BOTH THE EC MONITORING
MISSION, WITH REPS HOUSED IN THE AREA, AND THE UNHOR
ARE ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN MAKING THE JASENAK SITUATION
WORK. FRESH FROM A JUNE 5 VISIT TO JASENAK, UNHOR
CROATIA HEAD JEAN-CLAUDE CONCOLATO TOLD US JUNE 9
THAT THERE WERE ONLY 38 DISPLACED STAYING NEAR
JASENAK. ALL OF THEM WERE OF RUTHENIAN NATIONALITY.
FOR NOW, THE SITUATION IS UNDER NEW CONTROL AND NO
NEW, IMMEDIATE INFLOWS OF DISPLACED ARE PLANNED.

COMMENT

113. THE EXPERIENCE OF VRBOVSKO SUGGESTS THAT IN THESE AREAS OF CROATIA WHERE FIGHTING OR EXPULSIONS DID NOT TAKE PLACE, THERE IS SOME HOPE OF RECONCILIATION. UNFORTUNATELY, A FAVORABLE LOCAL CLIMATE CAN BE SPOILED BY OUTSIDE ACTIONS (E.G. DISMISSALS MADE BY ORGANIZATIONS BASED OUTSIDE THE AREA OR MEDIA HYPE FROM ZAGREB THAT INACCURATELY DESCRIBES A PARTICULAR SITUATION). ELSEWHERE, WHERE LARGE NUMBERS OF SERBS OR CROATS FLED, AND FIGHTING CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 04 ZAGREB 00954 07 OF 08 111240Z ENSUED, IT'S GOING TO TAKE MORE. ALL SERBS RETURNING TO THEIR VILLAGES WILL BE VIEWED SUSPICIOUSLY (WITNESS THE LENGTHY WAR CRIMES LISTS ALREADY BEING

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COMSIXTHFLT//N2//
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON//N24//
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 08 OF 08 ZAGREB 00954

STPDIS

VIENNA ALSO FOR USDEL CSBM; ISLAMABAD FOR POL/JPOGUE

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PRINTED IN CROATIAN NEWSPAPERS). EVERYONE FEELS VIOLATED OR BETRAYED, AND IN MANY CASES BY FORMER FRIENDS, RELATIVES OR NEIGHBORS. FOR SERBS WHO STAYED THROUGHOUT, IT WILL BE REQUIRED, RIGHTLY OR WRONGLY, THAT THEY ESTABLISH THEIR LOYALTY AND ATONE IN SOME WAY FOR THE TRANSGRESSIONS OF THEIR BRETHREN. CONFIDENTIAL

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114. IT IS OUR VIEW THAT EVEN IN AREAS WHERE SOME EFFORTS TOWARD RECONCILIATION ARE UNDER WAY, ANY REAL SUCCESS DEPENDS ON THE OVERALL CLIMATE AS DEFINED BY ZAGREB. PROGRESS IN INTER-ETHNIC RELATIONS HAS BEEN TENUOUS AT BEST IN A FEW AREAS, WHILE IN MOST AREAS NO SUCH EFFORTS HAVE GOTTEN UNDER WAY, NOR WILL THEY UNTIL THE WAR IS OVER AND THE UNPROFOR HAS DONE ITS JOB. SUCCESS IN REINTEGRATING SERBS INTO CROATIA WILL COME ONLY IN CONJUNCTION WITH A POSITIVE ATTITUDE ON THE PART OF THE REPUBLIC LEADERSHIP. WE BELIEVE LITTLE IMPROVEMENT IS POSSIBLE WITHOUT CLEAR SIGNALS FROM ZAGREB. END COMMENT. EINIK

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